

War Would Be For The Interests of Financial Freebooters Only! Says Socialist Party Emergency Committee to President Wilson

On the eve of the opening of the special session of congress the Socialist Party Emergency Committee, consisting of Victor L. Berger, John M. Work and Adolph Germer sent a telegram to President Wilson and members of congress declaring:

"In behalf of the Socialist Party of the United States, we earnestly urge you to oppose declaring war against Germany or declaring that a state of war exists.

"Instead, we urge you to vote to warn all American citizens to keep out of the danger zone. Our government has respected the war zone designated by the government of Great Britain, why should we not do the same of the war zone declared by Germany? Anyone who enters the danger zone at this time is not a good citizen. Foolhardy persons who deliberately put their country in danger of war do not deserve protection. Should the country go to war, it will be for the interest of financial freebooters only.

"We also urge that if the question of declaring war is to be voted upon at all, it shall be put to a referendum vote of the adult citizens of the United States, both men and women. We desire to put it squarely up to you whether or not you are willing to take the responsibility of deciding that the blood of thousands of your fellow human beings shall be spilled. Will your conscience permit you to do so when you can avoid it by voting against war, or by letting the people decide the question themselves?"

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AMERICAN SOCIALIST

APRIL LEAFLET
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VOL. III. No. 39.

CHICAGO 304

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1917

25 CENTS FOR SIX MONTHS; 50 CENTS PER YEAR; \$1 PER YEAR OUTSIDE UNITED STATES

Keep Up The War On War!

COMRADES:—We have every reason for congratulating ourselves for so far keeping this nation out of the European War. It is largely due to our efforts that Congress has not declared war. I am not saying this without justification, for it comes to us from a very reliable source that we have Congress guessing. Men high up in the United States Navy and Congressmen as well, have admitted that the telegrams, letters and postal cards, sent in from all parts of the country have impressed members of Congress with the fact that the people do not want war.

The new Congress convened on April second and the patriots for profit are bringing all possible pressure to bear to move Congress to a declaration of war. We can crucify them at their own game.

Many of you have already written President Wilson, the members of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. Do it again and tell them that there has been no change to justify this country becoming involved in the European slaughter. Continue this negative agitation. In the meantime, the Emergency National Convention will formulate a positive program for our future guidance. Don't relax for one moment in your agitation.

Those who are eager to plunge us into war so that treasuries will be swelled, are constantly on the job. We must do likewise.

ADOLPH GERMER,
National Secretary, Socialist Party.

"Russia Is Free!"

By MORRIS HILLQUIT.

Interrupting is monotonous tale of men's mad inhumanities, the crushing tale of suffering, death and destruction, of bleeding countries and agonizing nations, the transatlantic cable suddenly flashes the joyous, electrifying message: "Russia is free!"

Russia is free. All the dark powers of tyranny and reaction, of persecution and oppression, under whose baneful rule the Russian people have been suffering and succumbing for generations have been conquered and destroyed. The malevolent dynasty of the Romanoffs, which for 400 years has fastened itself to the Russian body politic like a blood-thirsty vampire, has been definitely overthrown. The weak and cruel features of the Russian autocrat which until now frowned upon the people of Russia from the walls of the gorgeous imperial palaces and great public buildings have been replaced by the defiant and triumphant red flag of the revolution.

The millions of Jews, Poles, Finns and other oppressed races within the domain of the great Russian empire are at last to be accorded human rights. The odious restrictions on free speech and press are to be abolished. The government of the country is to be constituted by the free choice of the people. Russia, dark and dumb and joyless Russia, will henceforth be a free, democratic and happy republic.

The 200,000,000 of Russian subjects, enslaved and oppressed and persecuted and tortured for ages, have risen in their might and broken their chains. They are free, and no occult power on earth can enslave them again.

Russia is free! What an intoxicating sensation, what a world of joy is contained in that magic phrase for us who for years have been watching the trials and ordeals of the great country and the struggle and defeats of its unfortunate people with alternating hope and despair. What a pathetic flush of happiness it must bring to the veterans of the Russian revolution, Catherine Brestkovskaya, Peter Kropotkin, Herman Lopatin, Veraigner and their few surviving comrades who have grown old and feeble and broken in the jails of Russia, in the cold deserts of Siberia or in exile for their work and struggles in behalf of Russian freedom. What a tragedy that the martyrs of the Russian revolution, the Sha-

lyaloffs and Perofskayas and the thousands of noble and heroic young men and women, the flower and pride of Russian youth, who for their love of the people were killed by Russia's crowned hangmen, cannot be with us to share in our rejoicing. Let us honor their memory in this hour of our triumph. Let us remember that, if the harvest of popular freedom in Russia is abundant and resplendent, it was their blood that made its soil fertile. And let us seek what consolation we can in the conviction that the names of the noble martyrs of Russia's revolution will be worshipped and revered in all times to come, while those of its bloody tyrants will be loathed and execrated.

The Russian revolution is the first bright ray of light that has come to us from Europe since the dark days of August, 1914. It means vastly more than a mere national upheaval. It is a revolution of all-European, nay, of world-wide significance. For more than a century Russia has been the hope and the prop of all European reaction. The fall of Russian absolutism is the doom of political oppression all over the world. The workers of Russia, with their primitive and direct instincts, have been the first to recover from the artificially stimulated, mad passions of war; the first to pause in the slaughter of their innocent fellow workers in other countries and to turn against their true enemies, their oppressors at home and the instigators of all fratricidal wars. If all signs do not fail, their brothers in Germany will soon follow suit and dispose of their Hohenzollerns and their junkers as the Russian people have disposed of their Romanoffs and the reactionary cliques surrounding them. And then the workers in the warring countries may awaken.

The Russian revolution was not accomplished by the liberal middle classes in the Duma. It was born on the streets of Petrograd and forced by the workers in revolt against the war, its savagery, its sufferings and its privation. The spontaneous and victorious revolution in Russia, coming at this time and in this manner, means the beginning of the end of this war, and the end of all wars.

This war, the most gruesome and insane of all wars in history, was caused by the autocratic and bureaucratic governments of Europe. It will be ended by the people. The rule of the privileged classes is bound to bring strife and war among nations. A genuine and worldwide democracy alone can and will preserve perpetual peace among nations.

Van Lear Opposes War Gift Of Billion Dollars

In answer to a telegram from the New York World sent to mayors of 50 leading American cities asking for opinions on the newspaper's advocacy of a \$1,000,000,000 gift to France in payment for aid in the American revolution, Mayor Thomas Van Lear, Socialist mayor of Minneapolis, Minn., wired that he was unequivocally against the proposition. He declared the gift invited war and asked if it were not for the "steel trust" thru the purchase of munitions with the money.

The mayor's telegram was sent also to the New York American and the New York Call, the mayor saying he believed the World might not print a statement opposed to the cause it was advocating.

Mayor Issues Statement.

In addition to this telegram Mayor Van Lear gave out a statement in explanation of his views. The telegram and statement follow:

"I am in receipt of the following telegram from the New York World: 'The World advocates the United States giving France outright \$1,000,000,000 principally in payment of our debt to her for her aid in the American revolution. The money is to be spent for American food, munitions and supplies. The World is asking 50 leading mayors for views. Will you please wire as early as possible your opinion of this proposition in 100 words, and oblige—The World.'

"Unequivocally Against Gift."

"To this message I have sent the following answer:

"'Unequivocally against \$1,000,000,000 gift to France. No state of war exists. Your proposal presupposes and invites one. If against best judgment of the masses of America war is declared, France could best be helped by commandeering munitions plants and furnishing supplies at cost. Munitions dealers boast of patriotic offer of munitions to our government at 10 per cent profit, thereby sacrificing 30 per cent from Allies. You want government to give France purchase money to pay 30 per cent profit. Is gift for France or for steel trust? Is impending war for honor or for profit? I am pro-peace. I favor no gifts abroad from government that cannot afford investigation of starvation prices at home.

"Thomas Van Lear,

"Mayor of Minneapolis."

Called War Measure.

"The proposal of the World would seem to be designed either to force a declaration of war by Germany, or for use as a war measure in the event of open hostilities. In either case it is to be looked upon with the gravest concern by our people, proceeding as it does from a democratic paper and one which is known to be unusually close, both in sympathy and influence, to the national administration. The suggestion of the World, so far as the public is advised, has received no official rebuke from Washington.

"Most of the opponents to America's participation in this world war have taken the ground that the moving impulse of the war forces is the profit lust of a small but powerful section of America's commercial interests, and not the alleged danger of invasion or any besmirching of our national honor. The great body of our citizens have not at any time cried out against the aggressions of a foreign foe; and even those who in the beginning most stoutly maintained that Germany would attack us, are concluding their campaign by insisting that we must attack Germany. The latest move of the World which would seem to be accepted with complacency by the government goes far to support the view of the peace party.

Sees Aid To Munition Makers.

"The gift from our government is to be spent in the United States. Let us assume that \$500,000,000 will go to the purchase of munitions and \$150,000,000 to the purchase of food. According to a recent statement in our local papers the munitions plants of the United States are willing to furnish to our government at a profit of 10 per cent, material on which they could realize a profit of 30 per cent. The gift of our government to France would afford a profit of something like \$150,000,000 to the munition makers of the United States. In other words, the United States treasury thru the government of France, is asked to make a gift of \$150,000,000 to the munition dealers of this country.

"Is the game worth the candle to the munition makers? Will it pay them to develop a buyer at home to replace the European customers who sooner or later must cease to buy?"

Reviews Steel Company's Profits.

"G. A. Torsney reports as follows under date of March 25, on the income to the United States Steel corporation Continued On Page Two.

Russianizing America.



At Our Doors—And Being Welcomed In.
What Are You Doing To Stop It?

War's Madness!

WAR'S madness is already beginning to grip some of the American people, incited to deeds of violence by the howling jingo press. The first real outbreak seems to have occurred at Baltimore, Md., where the sons of bankers, speculators in war brides, led a howling mob against an anti-war mass meeting being addressed by Dr. David Starr Jordan, the famous pacifist, president of Leland Stanford University, in California. In Philadelphia the police closed a theater against an anti-war meeting of the Emergency Peace Federation. Neither one of these meetings were called by organizations of the Socialists. The police in Pittsburgh tried to stop a Socialist anti-war meeting, claiming it would interfere with recruiting, but the Pittsburgh Socialists insisted on holding their meeting and the police gave in. Some of the reports we have received are as follows:

Howling Jingo Break Up Peace Meeting At Baltimore

Reports from Baltimore as we go to press tell how a howling mob of jingo and hoodlums who stormed the Academy of Music and smash-

ed big pacifist meeting to bits, stopping Dr. David Starr Jordan in the middle of a word and refusing to allow the speaking to continue.

"We will hang Dave Jordan to a sour apple tree," sang the insane jingoes.

The howling mob was led by Douglas and Leonard Ober, sons of a banker and broker, speculator in war brides, and Carter Osbourne, Jr., son of the vice of the Farmers' and Merchants' National Bank.

Philadelphia Theater Closed Against Anti-War Demonstration

Repeating the activities of the police in other cities, the Philadelphia police closed the Broad Street Theater against an anti-war demonstration. The meeting was planned by the Emergency Peace Federation.

Pittsburgh Police Seek To Suppress Socialist Meeting

The American Socialist has just received a telegram from National Secretary Adolph Germer, who went to Pittsburgh, Pa., to speak Sunday, as follows:

Pittsburgh, Pa., April 1, 1917.

The American Socialist,
Chicago, Ill.

Superintendent of Police and Commissioners of Public Safety try to suppress Socialist meeting claiming it would interfere with recruiting campaign. Socialists insisted upon constitutional right of free assemblage and successful meeting was held.

Adolph Germer."

Wisconsin Senate Adopts Constructive Program Of The American Socialist

By IRWIN TUCKER.

With only two dissenting votes, the state senate of Wisconsin adopted a Socialist resolution, addressed to the Wisconsin delegation in Congress. This resolution was introduced jointly in the Assembly and Senate following a caucus of the Socialist delegation, at which I laid before them the constructive program outlined in last week's American Socialist. This constructive program had been sketched in an informal conference at the National Office, and is embodied in the resolution, of which this is a verbatim copy:

"JOINT RESOLUTION

"Memorializing Wisconsin Senators and Representatives to follow certain governmental policies in case of war:

"RESOLVED by the Senate, the assembly concurring, that in view of the apparent imminence of a declaration of a state of war, we hereby recommend to our Senators and Representatives in Congress the following war measures for their favorable consideration:

"1. The confiscation of all yearly incomes of ten thousand dollars and over, for the defraying of the expenses of war.

"2. Immediate taking over by the United States Government of all railroads, and their operation under a cabinet department; compensation to be made to stockholders on the basis of the physical valuation of the railroads, said compensation to be paid after the physical valuation has been completed.

"3. Immediate seizure of all mines and their operation without profit under the federal bureau of mines.

"4. Immediate seizure by the Federal Government of all storage warehouses for food supplies; and the enactment of a law making the speculation in food supplies an act of treason under the articles of war.

"5. Dealings between the government and the workers in all of the industries seized and operated by the Government shall be conducted through their organizations with due safeguards for the right of organization among those not yet organized; and be it further

"RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution, attested by the proper officers of the assembly and senate, be forwarded to the United States senators and representatives from this state, forthwith."

There was very little expectation among the Socialist group that these resolutions, so sweeping and drastic in their character, could be passed through either house, although it was felt that the assembly would be more favorable than the Senate. But the sentiment in the legislature, supposedly dominated by Governor Philipp and his reactionary machinery, was suddenly revealed as overwhelmingly favorable. At this writing the lower house has not acted. But if the vote is taken at all, it is extremely likely to be quite as radical as the senate.

With this action of the state of Wisconsin, the constructive program called for in last week's American Socialist enters the domain of practical politics. If the St. Louis convention of the Socialist Party draws up some such outline as this, and its members scatter to the four corners of the country to press home wherever it can be pressed the imperative necessity of socializing all the in-

struments of production and exchange, it will command everywhere just such surprisingly strong sympathy as the Wisconsin Senate has shown.

It is true that this war was brought about for the profit of capitalists supported by militarism. But that is no reason why it should end in their favor. The railroads were built for private profit, but we are in favor of taking them over. Let us turn this war, started by capitalists, to the destruction of capitalism! Every nation which has been dragged into this conflict has socialized to a greater or lesser degree, according as its working class was alive to the possibilities of the case. Russia has dropped its czar; England has taken over its railroads; in Germany the rumblings of social democracy seem to be growing louder and louder. In this country, the American Federation of Labor has skillfully injected Labor into the center of the situation by making over to the Allies. It has been tendered the government—on condition that property is conscripted and industrial democracy established in every plant that works for the Government! Can we ignore the tremendous possibilities of our power?

There is a vast sentiment ready to crystallize itself around the constructive program proposed. In the city council voted overwhelmingly for a proposal to enable the city government to conduct its own ice, coal and food supply, although a few of the gray wolves shouted despairingly "It's opening the gate to Socialism."

The national administration itself has proposed the conscription of all incomes over \$100,000 as a feeler. If we lower that conscription to take in everything over ten thousand, we shall put a punch into the proposal that the ninety-nine and nine-tenths per cent of the American people who are below the ten thousand dollar line will gleefully recognize and enthusiastically cheer.

Organized Labor has already demanded industrial democracy. Can we do less than back this demand in the form presented? Conscription of the railroads has been hinted by the railroads themselves. We have simply to press the point that the government must not be transformed into a collecting agency for stockholders. Every one recognizes the necessity for seizure of mines, and the governmental operation of supply plants.

If we adopt a constructive policy for action in the event of war, we shall instantly rally to our support all the progressives in all parties, the peace party, the liberal democrats and the liberal republicans alike.

We will not be "angling for votes"; we will be riding the storm of the world catastrophe, and harnessing it to our cause.

North Dakota For Plan. A memorial has been presented to the President and Congress to aid war by all means possible, but if war is forced, then to "take all the profit out of war."

The memorial has been passed by the legislature of North Dakota and is pending now in the legislatures of Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota and Montana, and has been sent for presentation to the legislatures of all the other states in which legislative sessions are being held—thirty-eight states in all.

Arthur Le Sueur, legal adviser for the Non-Partisan League of North Dakota and the Northwest, has brought the memorial east, with authority to present it in the name of the League, of Governor Lynn Frazier of North Dakota, and of all affiliated farmers' and workers' organizations. The league itself, which has initiated the resolutions, is that organized movement of farmers and allied workers which has recently swept thru the Northwest and is developing a remarkable political and economic strength nationally.

Urging the preservation of peace and insisting on strict neutrality, the resolution "earnestly recommends and requests" that not only munitions plants and steel foundries, but flour mills, cloth factories and "such other property and money" be taken over by the government "to be used during the war without compensation and to be surrendered after the war to the owners."

"This memorial," said Mr. LeSueur in presenting it to official representatives and to public audiences in the east, "is not what one would call a direct demand for peace, but it has a direct demand for peace in its judgment, than any direct demand for it could ever have, because of the suggestion which it carries that citizens of wealth are not going to do as they have done in France, and other European countries, and as they did do in the United States in time of war—make the war an opportunity for a monopoly of wealth—but will be compelled to stand the burdens themselves. If this were actually done war would actually cease, for the common people are never voluntarily given to pay the costs of war, and the rich will never carry on a war at their own expense. In wars, during all time, the rich have had all the glory and the poor becoming poorer, as a result of the war. If some way could be devised whereby the war debts of Europe could be cancelled, the war over there would cease."

Declaring that "it has become apparent that there is some invisible force carrying on a press propaganda to involve this nation in the European conflict," and declaring that "it is apparent that the munition, armor and steel plants, and their allied interests would be the gainers in such a conflict," and declaring that "it is generally believed that the munition, armor and steel plants are the parties responsible for this propaganda," the body of the resolution or memorial proceeds:

"We respectfully petition the President and Congress of the United States, to do everything in their power that can honorably be done, to avoid this nation's being drawn into the European conflict of destruction.

"And we respectfully petition the President and Congress of the United States, to endeavor to maintain absolute neutrality with neither favor

nor prejudice toward any of the belligerent nations.

"And be it further made known that it is our firm and unalterable purpose to support and stand by our nation in case of war, with our lives and property."

"And being mindful of the principles of equity, justice and freedom upon which this government is founded, we do most earnestly recommend and request that the Congress of the United States authorize and empower the President, so far as it is within their power, in case war becomes inevitable, to seize all the property useful and necessary to the government in carrying on the war without compensation, and to be surrendered after the war to the owners; such property to include factories; shipyards, munition plants, armor plate mills, flour mills, arms, factories supplies and equipment, cloth factories and such other property and money as the government may require, to the end that all our citizens, regardless of social position or economic advantage, shall contribute equally to the common need and common defense of our nation, so that citizens of wealth may be enabled and compelled to contribute to the common welfare and need of their country on the same terms as the enlisted soldiers or sailors, who give their lives and their all."

Van Lear Opposes War Gift Of Billion Dollars

Continued From Page One.

for the year ending December 31, 1916:

"Even the most rampant bulls on steel had no grounds for disappointment in the report for the year ending December 31, 1916. The company's total business amounted to \$1,231,473,779, an increase of \$504,754,190, or 69 p. c. over the total in 1915. Net earnings were \$342,997,092, against \$140,250,066 the year previous, while the common stock was 46.40 per cent as compared with only 9.90 per cent in 1915. The total undivided surplus was \$381,360,918, of which \$189,000,000 was in cash, a vast sum of ready money even for so gigantic a concern as the United States Steel Corporation."

"We turn now from the munitions makers to the food speculators, with whom we assume France would spend the remaining half billion. According to a table recently published in one of our leading dailies, eight staple food products have increased in price, since 1911, 250 per cent on the average. The testimony of the food sellers is that this tremendous increase is due principally to the abnormal demand created by the war.

"Gain For Food Traders." Immense stocks of food now await shipment to Europe. Let the United States keep open the avenues of trade, and furthermore furnish to France \$500,000,000 for food purchases in America, and a modest estimate indicates that our food traders would take upward of \$200,000,000 straight out of the public pocket by way again of the government of France. This of course, would be only a befitting token of appreciation from the American people for the modest prices with which the food speculators have contented themselves within recent months.

"And the end is not yet; for the new power of France to buy would mean an increased demand and a further consequent boost in prices. The protest of the consumer the food plunderer would be able to meet with a comfortable smirk and the assurance that the law of supply and demand was in operation and that he could not stop it. I am not unmindful of the claim that the consumer has his relief—that if prices are high, wages are high also, and work is abundant. Wages have not begun to keep pace with prices, and to the honor of American labor let it be remembered that they have not demanded the continuance of the European war nor the participation of our government in it, tho the war makers have been busy in pointing out the economic advantages of war to the workers.

"Decrees Beating 'Tomtoms.' Our profiteers, however, are like those of whom it was said, 'Whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad.' So far toward the precipice have they pushed the nation that they have become reckless in their assurance. The commercial animus which prompts them they now scarcely care to conceal by tireless beating of the tomtoms of national honor, national safety, and loyalty to the government. They remind us of the image makers of old who, when Paul of Tarsus came to Ephesus to preach that there be no gods which are made by the hands of men, stood on the corners crying, 'Great is Diana of the Ephesians.' They knew that if the living God supplanted Diana the trade in images would suffer and to one another they confessed, 'Our craft is in danger.' The steel trust if today it would speak honestly must surely say, 'Our graft is in danger.'

"In behalf of all men who hold public office in these difficult days, I wish to raise my voice against the brazen and unscrupulous effort of the war party to bend to uses disastrous to freedom, the official power of this nation, high and low.

Defends Own Course. "I have myself been accused of using my office for the purpose of peace propaganda. If I have made peace propaganda it has been on my own motion and not because I was coerced or incited into doing so. There is no public man or public body today that is not persistently solicited to lend aid to measures inimical to liberty and foreign to American institutions. Compulsory service is sought to be forced upon us thru our schools and our government while thru the latter body the attempt is made to establish censorship in its worst form and to divert the public income from purposes of peace to the destructive ends of war.

"What is the personnel of the conference committee on national preparedness, the Universal Military Training league, the Navy league, the National Defense league? It is time that these for very shame be silent and that the men who must bear the burden of the battle bear their say upon the necessity and the desirability of war."

Food Prices To Go Still Higher If We Get Into War

By LUCIEN SAINT.
(Special Correspondence.)

WASHINGTON.—When war breaks out food prices will go up. This is a universal habit of food prices. They will stay up, once they go up. They will rise to starvation heights. They have already done so in Germany, England, France and Russia.

The needs of the army for food will first be met. The army will get the best, and plenty of it, no matter whether the reserves of the army, the main body of the citizens of the nation, starve or die. Thus do capitalist civilization decree and thus will it be.

Labor will suffer more than any other class. Labor, therefore, thru intelligent political and economic pressure, must prevail upon the Government to recognize this problem and to take a strong stand from the very first. Sooner or later we shall need a Food Controller. Why not NOW?

Let the working class map out a program of food preparedness, and let them present this program thru their one representative in Congress and their state legislators, to the authorities. This program must contain these measures:

Government ownership of the transportation systems, including the express companies.

Government holding of the terminal warehouses, cold storage plants, grain elevators, and markets.

Government supervision and regulation of crop production.

Government regulation of exports.

And so on.

This may or may not be the exact program, but it is the precise line of attack. Even the militarists will have to recognize this fact. Let the brains of the Socialist movement serve their country in constructing a sane and workable plan which, in peace as well as in war, will socialize food and make living cheap and healthy.

Find Little Jingo Spirit

IF CONGRESS declares war upon Germany, it will be for this reason: "That Germany is sinking upon sight and without warning unarmed or peaceful merchant ships of a neutral power."

Wholly aside from the right and justice of this reason, this is the reason, and once in the war, all groups in the United States will be equally involved in the problem of securing a speedy and RIGHT end to it—the least loss of life, the least breaking down of international good will, the least violence to the principle of humanity, almost all of which war violates.

Old timers in Washington are marveling today that there is so little jingoism thruout the country. There is plenty of jingoism in certain of the newspapers, but not near as much as there was when Hearst and the Sugar Trust drove McKinley into war with Spain.

The duty of the Socialists, as this correspondent sees it from this vantage point in the nation's capital, is to let the war be a war of the making of the capitalists, for their own honor and protection. It is none of our war. The socialist duty is clearly to work harder than ever before for the right things in national life which the stimulus of war may make more possible.

Work for Government ownership—it's inevitable, but it will come quicker if you work for it.

Work for popular control of your local and national governments. Raise your voices for what you want. The Russian people got it—why not the Americans?

Bear down on the constructive things. Leave off destructive criticism. Let the enemy do that. All things will not be right or wrong at once. A little at a time.

Make the war help you do your work.

Censorship Looms Bigger

"IT IS requested that no information, reports or rumors, attributing a policy to the government in any international situation, not authorized by the President, or a member of the cabinet, be published without first consulting the Department of State."

This is paragraph number six of the censorship regulations. As yet they are not hard and fast regulations, that is to say, they are not compulsory. But before another week shall have passed, they may well be compulsory. The lid may be clamped down on the American press.

Where does labor and the labor press get off? Under the proposed censorship will it be possible for Socialist papers to criticize the government—will anti-war organizations be allowed to protest against the war or object to the way it is being run? Are we going to become "efficient" after the fashion of Russia, Germany, and England?

Regulation No. Six will cut the country off from the real news of Washington. It will put the folks back home in the dark. It will give the government a freedom from the healthful sunshine of publicity, which it needs, war or peace, now and all the time.

This is one of the side things that war does. As yet we are not at war. The censorship is a reason for not having any war at all.

Our War Program

By WM. F. KRUSE.

One may be blind and deaf and lame and crippled and yet not fail to see that we are close—very close—to war. Every step now being taken by the powers-that-be are in that direction. Army and navy are being mobilized, an energetic recruiting campaign is on, plans are already under way to muzzle the press and the labor organizations in case war is declared, and a special congress is called several weeks ahead of schedule time. There can be only one answer to these activities—WAR.

We can readily see the masters' hand in this game. As long as there was no restriction placed on our shipment of ammunition, food, clothing, and other supplies to the belligerents of one side, we were in no danger of being dragged into the conflict. At the very start of the war our trade was cut off completely with the Central powers and our trade with neutrals was seriously hampered. But we were not then in danger of war. Our trade with England and her allies was still secure and war loans and munitions contracts had a marvellously soothing influence on our now rabid jingo press.

But now the shoe is on another foot. Shipments are stopped and with them stop the abnormal profits in the "War Brides." For doing just exactly what Great Britain did at the outset of the war, the using different weapons, we are to fight Germany. The jingo press says we are. The War College and all our epauletted soldier boys say we are. Wall Street says we are. Its hirelings in Congress say we are. The man on the street is undecided, in the extreme East he seems to think so too, in the West he is, in the main, of a different opinion. Now what shall the Socialists say about it?

The need of a clear-cut war policy is imminent to all Socialists. We must know just where our party stands. And this policy cannot be merely negative as it has been in the past; like a double-edged sword it must be both positive and negative. The positive side of our program has thus far been sadly neglected. It has been neglected not only in this country but everywhere. Our comrades across the sea were always strong on their position to war before it came, but were lost entirely and did not know where they stood it once was upon them. Now, we here will not be able to stop the war any more than they were. But we can, in the short time left for us, plan our program of work AFTER the outbreak as well as before.

Our positive program should include every progressive measure that the conduct of the war has taught other governments. We should stand up for the immediate conscription of in-

comes above a certain sum, we should stand for government ownership of all possible lines of industry, we should insist on labor's representation, if not control, of all boards of industrial administration. We should insist on exemption of conscientious objectors from military service, and if universal service is forced upon us we should oppose all efforts of wealth to get around it thru the hiring of substitutes. These are just a few of the points in our positive program. How now about the negative?

We should at all times reiterate our opposition to this war. We should continue in every available way to show

up its character as a selfish trade squabble. We should in every way pursue a policy of obstructionism to the jingo policy. To do so will undoubtedly get us into trouble with the government and into disrepute with the war-makers, but they are not of our class, nor is their government as yet our government. A business war of this character is unjustifiable from any angle save that of the profiteer, and we should never let up in our opposition to it.

A discussion of these topics is vital to the welfare of our movement at this time. We are dangerously close to the brink of war. Other countries have been, and in plunging into the pit have dragged even a great many of our socialists with them. We have no right to expect that our comrades in this country will show themselves to be any clearer thinkers than have others been. The maze of controversy that has already been waged over this question ought to banish all our hopes in this direction. Already do we find some of our comrades advocating that we join in the war on the side of the allies. To them the idea of continued opposition on our part is exceedingly distasteful. They see, or at least profess to see, in this war a great struggle between "democracy" on the one hand and "absolutism" on the other. The war becomes a "principle" to them instead of a selfish capitalist squabble for world markets. These champions of democracy have always had a rather lame cause until a few days ago the news of the revolution in Russia electrified the world. It looks a great deal more plausible now. The very people who saw in the Tsar's fight only a grab for a warm-water port can now look only at a fight for republican principles. And those to whom America's entrance into the fight was yesterday only an effort to protect munitions profits, today suddenly become convinced of our holy mission to vindicate the traditions of republicanism—by shouldering a gun and going to slaughter the tools of those who don't believe as we do.

What is there in this whole business? We are all glad that the Tsar has gone (hoping that all our newspaper reports are true, of course), it represents one step forward in the march of progress. It is Russia's bourgeois revolution—it had to come sooner or later. It is a sign that we may henceforth hope for more from the workers of Russia in our international fight against the common enemy, the master class. But have we nothing to hope from the workers of Germany? Bread riots being put down by soldiery withdrawn from the front, Liebknecht and his followers unquenched in their opposition and finally Bethmann-Hollweg's announcement to his peers that the German people will not be satisfied to put up with the same conditions that prevailed before the war! Do these promise something from the German people?

Our effort should be directed toward breaking down the war spirit of all nations, not in the humiliation of any one of them. What right have we to rebuke the militaristic spirit of Germany when our hands are thus blackened by the largest military appropriation ever made in times of "peace"? Let us try to take care of our own doorsteps first.

Some of our "enter-the-war-for-the-sake-of-democracy" socialists seem to think that the present alliance between the Allied powers is the beginning of a World State that shall bring about peace and justice for all. That is a pretty dream, but entirely unfounded in fact. It merely constitutes the beginning of a new balance of power and a new secret diplomacy that cannot fail, unless stopped by working-class power, to lead to new wars and new injustices. The economic interests of the now rapidly developing Russia must sooner or later come into conflict with Britain just as those of Germany did. India and other British possessions in the Far East will be an ever present incentive for Japan to break the faith. China too is coming along rapidly and there is sure to be a clash when occidental capitalism seeks to share the plunder in which the little Japs are now wallowing. There is no safety to be found in militaristic alliances of any such nature,

provided that all young men between the age of 18 and 23 years would be compelled to attend military training camps four weeks each year, and which looked threatening after passing the Senate in New York State, was killed in a House committee last week. Much credit for defeat of the measure is given the two Socialist members of the Legislature, Ship-coff and Whitehorn.

Chester M. Wright for nearly three years managing editor of the New York Call, has resigned his position. Differences of opinion with the association that controls the Call on industrial and political policies are given as the cause for the change.

The Forward, Jewish Socialist daily in New York city, is about to celebrate its 20th anniversary. The paper now has a circulation of over 200,000 and is an acknowledged power in waging campaigns for improved conditions for the organized Jewish workers.

As in the Briand ministry, there are three officers in the new French War Cabinet, who are Socialists or were identified with the party. Thomas is an active member and Bourgeois and Viviani claim to be Socialists, but are not enrolled as members.

The April Leaflet!

Our April leaflet is entitled "The High Cost of Living." It was written by Scott Nearing.

This leaflet should be distributed to the hundreds of thousands. You can get these leaflets from the National Office, Socialist Party, 803 West Madison Street, Chicago, Ill., at 10 cents per 100; 75 cents per 1,000.

The cost of living is going up! Let the workers of the nation know the reason why!

We have seen them formed all thru history and every nation that has ever placed its faith therein has been destroyed.

If we want peace, a permanent lasting peace, the only way that we will ever get it is in refusing to draw the sword ourselves and in organizing our numbers to such an extent that our masters will not be able to use the working-class of this, or any other country, to bolster up its profits. Every battleship added to our list, every officer educated, every soldier made, raised just that much more of a barrier to head off the coming of international brotherhood. Let us do our share, first to stop war before it comes, and, failing in that, ever afterward to do our best to make war unpopular. We can make it decidedly unpopular to the capitalist by appropriating all his profits and taking away his control of the tools of production. We can only hope to make it unpopular to the workers by a solid education in Socialism.

The Labor party of New South Wales established a court to enforce fair rents and block the gouging of landlords. From 50 to 100 complaints a month have adjusted in Sydney alone. The court has final jurisdiction and no lawyers are permitted to come in for either tenant or landlord to interpose quibblers and fiddle around for fat fees. It costs only \$3,000 to conduct the courts and tenants pay a nominal fee of 24 cents to have a case considered and are not required to appear personally. It frequently happens that when the rentals for a single house in a terrace or apartments in a building are fixed by the court the rate applies to all other similar habitations in the district. Of course, the landlords yell Socialism, confiscation and bloody murder, but the Laborites don't care a rap and inform the owners that they are mighty lucky to be permitted to charge any rents. It is quite certain that the rent regulation system will be retained after the war and it may lead to the government taking over all the rented houses. That's how Socialism breaks up the homes!

The notorious Meyer bill, which provided that all young men between the age of 18 and 23 years would be compelled to attend military training camps four weeks each year, and which looked threatening after passing the Senate in New York State, was killed in a House committee last week. Much credit for defeat of the measure is given the two Socialist members of the Legislature, Ship-coff and Whitehorn.

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Must We Arm?

GREAT DEBATE

between

Morris Hillquit

and

Congressman Gardner

of Massachusetts.

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PRICES POSTPAID:
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\$6.50 per 100 — \$4 for 50 copies

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803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

Spanish Leaflets

Four leaflets in Spanish have just been issued by the National Socialist Party as follows:

Una Defensa Catolica Del Socialismo (A Catholic Defense Of Socialism) by the Hon. Charles Russell.

La Guerra de las Clases (The War of the Classes).

La Parabola Del Poso (The Parable of The Water Tank) by Edward Bellamy.

La Parabola Del Cazador (The Parable of the Hunter) by Edward Bellamy.

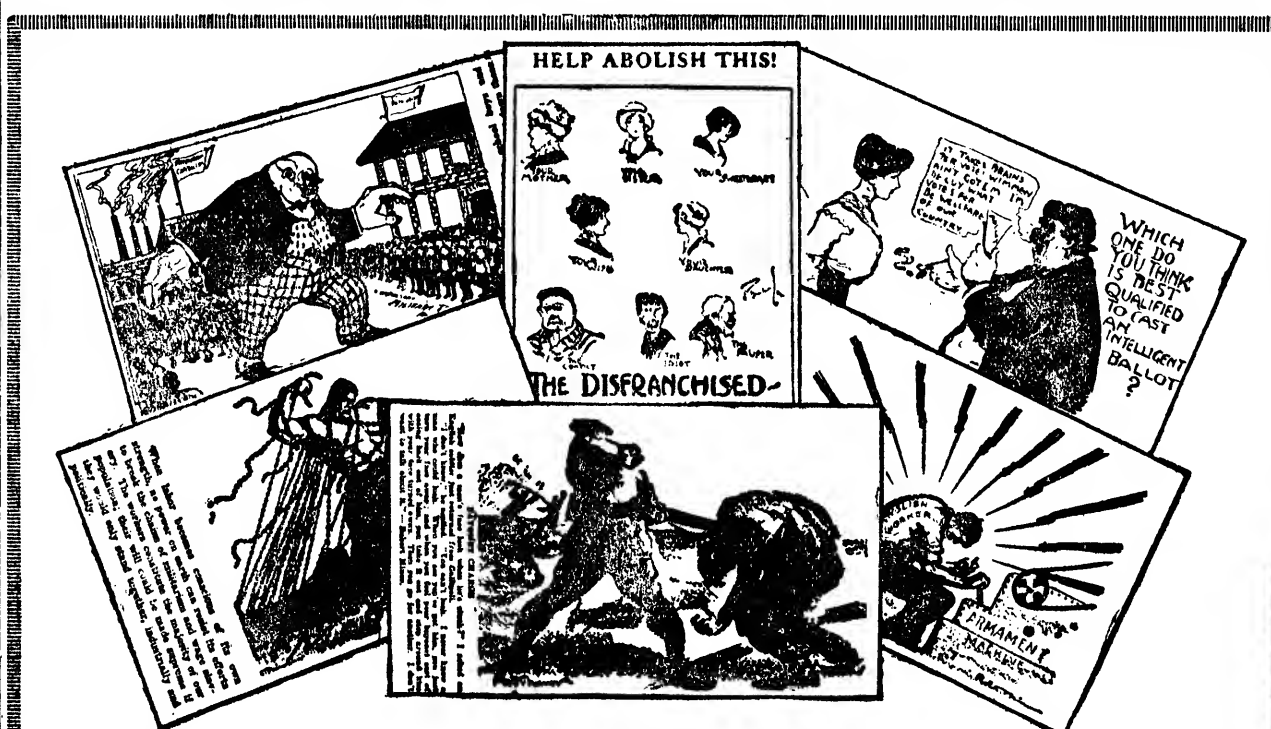
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Take Power To Declare War Away From Congress!

In a speech delivered in the House on February 16th, 1916, Congressman Church boldly accused his fellow Congressmen of making wars without any intention of fighting in them themselves, and demanding that the power to declare war be taken away from the President and Congress and lodged where it belongs—in the people. A lot of other people have made this demand for a war referendum and they have been met with all kinds of arguments. It is interesting to see this congressman explode those jingo contentions. He says:

By REP. DENVER F. CHURCH
Of California.

I would like to see all the money that is to be used in carrying out the plan of additional preparedness raised from those who are selling munitions of war to the belligerents and by an additional income tax. The present scheme of preparedness is based upon the necessity of greater protection, and I would like to see those who have the most to be protected supply most of the necessary revenue.

We are the richest and most powerful nation on earth; why not be prepared for emergencies that may arise? But by all means, in this Government "of the people, by the people, and for the people," let the people decide when it is time to exercise our great strength.

Under the present plan the President thru his diplomatic communications and other constitutional powers, can bring on a war almost at will that the people will have to fight. If the President happens to be a wise man and a man of peace, there is not so much danger; but if he is an impulsive man and a man of war, which is frequently the case, the country is in peril.

Congress, that now has the constitutional power to declare war, is composed of Senators and Representatives who are exempt from war. If they were not, they are generally too old and fat and well fed to fight. Most of them would be a hindrance on a battle field. In case of a charge they would hardly escape being run over by the Red Cross, the newspaper boys, and the Commissary Department; and yet on the most trivial provocation we find a large minority of them anxious to bring on a war that other men must fight.

Our present plan is neither safe nor fair. I hear much about the honor of our country, and I believe the honor of this country should be maintained; but I want to see the term "honor" defined by the men who have to maintain it.

I would not like to have some fat fellow define my honor, tell me when it had been assailed, and then force me into a fight.

No man should have to be a factor in his country's defense in time of war who was not a factor on election day in determining whether there should be war.

War so vitally affects every citizen that I think every citizen should have a right to express his views as to whether there should be war.

War is the most important of all subjects. Why should not the people decide it?

Why should not the interested parties decide the most interesting, to them, of all subjects?

If we enlarge our Navy so it is fully adequate for our defense, and then let the people decide when it shall be placed in action, we will have national honor and national peace for at least a hundred years.

Why should we not let the people decide when they shall go to war? Do we not believe that the people should rule? Do we mean this is a Government wherein the people shall decide matters of minor importance, but when it comes to deciding whether we shall have war, the largest and most important of all questions, that the people are not qualified to decide? As human blood and human life are of more importance than all other considerations of humanity, so the question of war is of more importance than all other subjects.

Do not tell me the people now, thru their representatives, decide the proposition and that they are the real ones who declare war. Such is not the case. War generally comes on suddenly, in the midst of an administration, and the people never have an opportunity to indicate their will, much less to speak.

All the wars in which this country has engaged were declared so long

Here Comes A New War Maniac.



after the general election that it would be absurd to think the question of declaring war, or the views of the candidates for office in regard to it, could have had any effect whatever upon their election. The War of 1812 was declared on June 12, about 20 months after the general election; the War with Mexico was declared May 13, 1846, about 19 months after the general election; the Spanish-American War was declared by Congress April 25, 1898, about 18 months after the general election of 1896. Our other two wars, the Revolution and the Rebellion, would, of course, have fallen under the exceptions, as set forth in my amendment.

Leaving as partially considered the proposition that it is the business of the people who are subject to military duties to declare war, let us consider some of the other reasons why the plan that I have outlined is good. First, it will give time to reflect, to reconsider, and to cool off, as it were. My father taught me when I was a child to count a hundred after I became angry before I acted or spoke. The idea was that if I counted a hundred first I would act and speak more wisely. The proposed plan gives us time as a Nation, in which to reconsider and determine whether we want to fight or not.

John Sherman, Secretary of State, during the Spanish-American War, said, in a public address at his home in Mansfield, O., at a reception given in his honor just before he retired as Secretary of State:

"Had not the war with Spain been declared when it was we could have secured by treaty with Spain all that we demanded."

What a shame to the American people that a war was unnecessarily declared which resulted in the death of 6,395 officers and enlisted men, and wherein hundreds of millions of dollars of property were lost, when the matter could have been settled by ink and pen on a scrap of paper.

Suppose this war had been declared with equal haste against one of the great powers of Europe and instead of the few thousand lives being lost it had resulted in the loss of several million. The only guarantee we have against the unnecessary horror of war is to place the power of declaring war in the hands of the people.

Tell me, if you can, why the people who are taxed to maintain a war should not have the full say in declaring war? Do you still subscribe to the old doctrine of "taxation without representation"? That theory was exploded more than a hundred years ago. That doctrine was fought, routed, and put to death at Lexington, Yorktown, and Bunker Hill.

For centuries men have dreamed of universal peace of a time when swords and spears should be no more, and that noble end men have dedicated their lives. But their efforts have been in vain, and now the saddest war that ever cursed the world is on, and war flames rise and tidal waves of misery and human woe sweep rural lands and cities fair that before were filled with sweet content. All schemes adopted in the past to prevent war have failed, so we must adopt some other plan. I trust you will not shake your heads and say there is no hope. We have tried to stop it by treaties of peace, dealing only with ambitious men who profit by war. Let us treat with kings and rulers no more, for during the history of the world they have been declaring wars for the common people to fight. The present war in Europe is an example of this vicious practice.

Scarcely any of the men now in the trenches know the causes which brought about the war. They know they are fighting for their king, their emperor, their czar. That is as far as their knowledge goes.

Two million men have been killed in Europe in the last year and a half for a cause unknown. If the bodies of all these men were placed end to end 6 feet in length they would reach 2,272 miles, about the distance in a straight line from New York to San Francisco. Seven million men, the physical pride of Europe, have been killed and wounded in this war. It is estimated they have shed 233,000 barrels of human blood—blood spilled in vain—for a cause unknown. Had the good cause which I am advocating to-day been in operation in Europe, these lives would have been spared, these wounded would be whole, and this blood would not have been shed, for the people over there are no more in favor of war than are the people here.

Our country is the light of the world, and if we place in the hands of our people the right of declaring war other nations will in time follow our example, and then will dawn the age of universal peace.

FARM ANIMALS GET MORE ATTENTION THAN CHILDREN

"The United States government places the value of farm animals above that of the child, for it spends about \$1,500,000 on child welfare annually and five times that amount on hogs, cattle and horses," said H. R. Pestalozzi, chief attendance officer, before the Milwaukee Woman's School alliance.

The speaker declared that the nation which neglects its children is paving the way for its disintegration. True preparedness, he maintained, must include giving every child in the country a decent home, good food and an education.

The minority faction of the Socialist party in Germany having been expelled—or automatically expelled themselves by engaging in a rump conference and disobeying the will of the majority, as the latter claim—a program has been issued demanding that the German armies be withdrawn from conquered territory and no annexation be attempted by any of the belligerents, that treaties be not made or war declared henceforth without the consent of Parliament, and that universal suffrage be introduced in all states of the German Empire. While admitting that the new Socialist party will have a large following in the principal cities of Germany, the government politicians assert that its influence will be "next to nothing." Which claims may or may not be true. It is, however, the nucleus around which can assemble a great revolutionary movement when the rest of the people tire of the swaggering inhabitants and the misery they are causing.

A special national convention has been called by the Socialist party of Switzerland to meet the first of June to outline the party's attitude toward the "democratic" militarism that exists in that country, to consider ways and means to combat high prices, as well as relations with the party factions in other countries. The Swiss party has also decided to pay no more dues to the International Socialist Bureau at The Hague for the time being.

YIPSEL DOINGS.

Ansonia, Conn., played a big part in the successful Meyer London meeting held recently, for most of the Yipsels have also become members of the party local there. League meetings are improving all the time, and good work is planned for the summer time.

Hartford, Conn., Yipsels will debate the Socialist Educational Club on the annexation of Mexico, after defeating the American branch of the S. P. in the last debate the youngsters are looking for new worlds to conquer.

New Haven, Conn., reports a very successful mock trial in which a striker was accused of killing a scab. The jury, composed of members of the party local there, was moved by the brilliant prosecuting attorney than by the Blatfordian defense, and brought in a verdict of "Guilty."

Richmond, Va., is planning to get a new headquarters and is doing some very effective work among local young folks.

Buffalo is showing the live-wire spirit now. Circle One is out-Sundaysing "Blistering Billy" himself, and carrying it on all the time. Helping at party meetings, running a home-tennis-social, and a lecture by Henry Fahey on "The Sun's Family" are among the late happenings. Good press work is being done too. Circle Two, but recently organized, already has a membership of forty.

Troy, N. Y., conducts a quarterly organization rally this month and makes big plans for it.

Rochester, N. Y., runs a "biggest of the big" moonlight dance one night, and a bigger April Fool's Party the next. That's going strong on the local side of life but what do you say when you find that the same leader runs three headline lectures in a single month?

New Jersey State reports such fine activity that it makes up a complete story all by itself. Watch for it in the next number of the official Socialist Party "Bulletin". They sure are making SOME progress, especially in Newark and Trenton.

Cincinnati, O., contributes \$5.00 to the Moorey Defense Fund, and makes itself heard from in all Socialist circles.

Cleveland, O., Jewish Circle, has had an interesting course of lectures by C. M. O'Brien, of Canada, and a study course in literature.

Toledo, O., is going to have an April Fool's Party at which each member will have to do some stunt, no matter what it is, so long as it amuses the crowd.

Milwaukee, Wis., Marxian League, now meets in one of the city's social center buildings and reports improvement in its work.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

"That National Secretary of Y. P. S. L. attend Socialist Party National Convention held at St. Louis as the representative of League."

Noting "Yes" Swartz (Pennsylvania), Kaiser (New York), Newman (New Jersey), Belford (Connecticut). Not voting: Pollak (New York), Rogers (Indiana), Dozenberg (Massachusetts), resigned. Motion carried.

A CHANCE TO MAKE MONEY.

Mr. A. H. Daves, of Southern Alabama, writes: "As few people know of the wonderful opportunities here, my experience may benefit many. Ten years ago I came here without a dollar, got some free land, cleared one acre and planted Satsuma oranges, which are frost proof. In three years I began selling fruit: that one acre now makes me an annual profit of over \$1,000. I now have 50 acres of bearing Satsuma, my three and four year old trees yield a profit of \$200 to \$400 per acre, and my annual income is over \$18,000 and growing larger every year. Any person can get from 5 to 25 acres of choice land in the Demonstration Plantation FREE, by having oranges or figs and peaches planted on it. For particulars about this free land, address W. A. Roberts, Secretary, 339 Fifth Ave., Block 403, Pittsburgh, Pa. If you can't go South yourself, and authorized Co.-way will plant your trees, care for them and market the fruit for a share of the profits."

IN THE WORLD OF LABOR.

By Max S. Hayes.

THE CHICAGO Federation of Labor held a mass meeting in the Chicago Coliseum recently to protest against the attempted legal killing of Tom Mooney, the chief victim thus far of the prosecution of San Francisco Laborites by the employers' associations that are banded together to break up labor unionism on the Pacific Coast and who used the bomb outrage at the time of the preparedness parade in the furtherance of their designs. Mooney was convicted and sentenced to hang; Billings, another unionist, was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment; and Weinberg, Nolan and Mrs. Mooney are now facing trial in the same series of persecutions. Three dangerous and sinister elements have combined to make these convictions of unionists possible. A most infamous jury system was the weapon with which the Prosecuting Attorney Fickert was able to convict Tom Mooney within the walls of the Coliseum against all believable testimony and against all the physical facts in the case. And the ferocious hatred for union labor in general, and for Mooney and his fellow-victims in particular, on the part of this prosecutor Fickert, was combined with the avowed active enmity toward trades unionism by the Chamber of Commerce and the Employers' Associations to push the prosecution even to the extent of legalized homicide. The Chicago Federation of Labor had taken up the challenge, and is operating with the labor organizations elsewhere to make the public and the officials of states and the Nation familiar with the enormity of the legal crime being committed in San Francisco. Mass meetings are being held all over the country.

FRANK P. Walsh, chairman of the Committee on Industrial Relations, has written to Thomas Mooney, who was sentenced and hanged in May at San Francisco for alleged complicity in the bomb explosion during a preparedness parade last summer, that he will do all in his power to establish Mooney's innocence. Eugene V. Debs and other champions of the workers have written to the same effect. Walsh has studied the testimony and is profoundly shocked that a verdict of guilty could be established on such evidence. "I agree with Mr. Cockran," writes Walsh, "that your conviction may be the entering wedge to an awakening of the American people to the absolute necessity of reform in the administration of law. The greatest legal minds of this country, including the heads of great universities, high judicial officers, former presidents of the great bar associations of the country, and other leaders of thought, testified before the late Industrial Relations Commission that the humble citizens, particularly the workers, were discriminated against in the courts of the country—a fearful arraignment, I would say, of our whole system of jurisprudence."

New and startling evidence has been discovered, and statements made by a jurymen and a principal witness will throw a strange light on this drama as it is flashed upon the public screen. "I don't know whether Mooney is guilty or not. We convicted him on his past record." This extraordinary statement was made by Jurymen John W. Miller. And again: "Cockran came out from New York to show us something, but we showed him a few things. We didn't discuss the verdict at all length. We wanted to get Mooney out of the way." This choice bit of common sense from Mrs. Edean, star witness for the prosecution, and who, as investigations show, has a past: "What difference does their conviction make? They're only workmen, besides there are too many working people in the world." Told that she would hang a man for 50 cents, she said, "What difference does it make so long as you get paid for it?"

AN INDUSTRIAL depression of great severity exists in the Argentine Republic. Over 100,000 workmen are unemployed and there is widespread suffering, which is greatly intensified by the unusually high prices for the ordinary necessities of life. In Buenos Aires alone 18,000 building mechanics are out of work, while thousands of dock workers, farm laborers and other toilers are also idle. All six Socialist members of Parliament have introduced bills to provide that the government establish public works and provide other means of employment and to guarantee minimum wage standards, but the capitalistic politicians will probably defeat the measures and hand the poor a resolution promising to investigate the conditions.

BRITISH workers are not satisfied with the industrial conscription schemes that have been foisted upon them. A call has been sent out by prominent labor men urging that the workers in London and other large cities assemble in mass meetings on March 31 for the purpose of considering the whole program of conscription and so decide on what is to be done to preserve industrial freedom.

THE BILL to establish a State Constabulary in New York has passed the Senate and its advocates predict that it will also be forced thru the House and be signed by Governor Whitman, who has stated that he favors it. The bill has the solid backing of the military element and Big Business, who point out that when the State troops are sent to the front "the public will be left unprotected." Russia will soon abolish its Cossacks or smash their brutal power. We are introducing the system.

STANDARD Oil is not going to lose any of the big profits that come out of the European war if deception and compulsory labor will get them. It is almost impossible to obtain American and European marine workers to go abroad to preserve "their rights" at this time. So deception and force is used to press Asiatics into service. Last week 40 Chinese trimmers and firemen on the Standard Oil tanker Tantalus, under British registry, went on strike at Tompkinsville, S. I.,

An Impossible Reality

By JOHN M. WORK.

S. W. STRAUSS, president of the American Society for Thrift, said in an address before the National Education Association, "Incredible as it may seem, in this land of such vast wealth there are from ten to fifteen million people who are in absolute poverty."

Yes, it does seem incredible. It is one of those impossible things which are nevertheless true. It reminds one of that old story about the man in jail who sent for his lawyer and told him what the accusation was. The lawyer replied, "Why, man, they can't put you in jail for that." And the prisoner replied, "Hell, I'm here!"

TTE MILLIONS of poverty stricken people are here. They stare you in the face when you brag about the unparalleled prosperity of the country.

They stare you in the face when you boast about our big balance of exports over imports.

They stare you in the face when you gush about the one hundred and fifty billion dollars worth of wealth in this country.

They stare you in the face when you go into spasms of patriotism and proclaim this to be the greatest nation in the world.

You can't get away from them. Wherever you go they stare you in the face.

And well they may.

I HOPE their vacant lives will continue to haunt you, turning your fine words to ashes on your lips, until you are willing to do something about it. So far, the people have been willing to do anything but the right thing. They are willing to hand out charity. They are willing to have the big industries regulated. They are willing to finance all kinds of uplift stunts.

But there will be no relief until they are willing to abolish the robber system. The present social system, capitalism, allows the few to own the things which the many must use. Therefore, the few get the benefit, and the many are in poverty.

THERE is one, and only one, remedy for poverty. The remedy is the collective ownership of the exploiting industries. They will then be run for the benefit of all the people and poverty will go a glimmering. And that is Socialism.

while the ship was preparing to weigh anchor. The Orientals in some way found out that they were bound for the war zone instead of for an East Indian port. They swarmed over the side and into a small motorboat carrying Captain Clarke, who had been ashore for his clearance papers. In the fight to get away one Chinaman was shot in the back.

ACCORDING to the U. S. Department of Labor, the number of general wage increases in November and December, 1916, was 516, of which 217 report more than 1,000,000 employees involved. Nearly half of the increases noted were voluntary and the other half were divided about equally between increases forced by strikes and those reached thru agreements between employers and employees.

IT IS NOT too late to mention the fact that when the railroad strike threatened two weeks ago the Caranza officials made it known that no Mexican railway employees could be sent into the United States to act as strikebreakers. That will serve as a new reason for Big Business to agitate for intervention, as the Wall Street crowd hoped to gather a goodly number of scabs in Mexico.

War Clouds.

By CONRAD BANG.

War clouds hang o'er us.
Hell looms before us.
Treachery storms of intrigue draw us near!
Laughter of madness,
Heart throbs of sedition,
Nation, thy heart is stripped naked of cheer!

Sabres soon flashing,
Tutts will be grunting,
Wounded, and dying, some soldier boy!
Will Heaven hear him?
Will angels come to him?
Will God take him into His Kingdom of Joy?

Profits arise from the groans of the dying.
Fortunes are due from the bones of the dead;
Widows and orphans are struggling and crying.
Miser, please give us a morsel of bread!
Worker in peace time, lo, poverty calls thee.
Drives thee to yield to industry's demand;
Soldier in war time, the cannibals thee,
Stand by the colors of thy native land!

Congressman Bailey, of Pennsylvania, sent return postcards to his constituents indiscriminately asking their views on the war question. He received 876 replies, of which number 475 opposed war and demanded a national referendum, 318 are against war and indifferent regarding a referendum, and 80 said they favored war. Still Bailey is denounced by the professional patriots because he won't let the tail wag the dog.

The Ohio State organization is still hustling to raise the special fund of \$1,000 to be devoted to building up locals and increasing the dues-paying membership of the Socialist party. Up to this week a total of \$375 has been contributed, and Secretary Wagenknecht has sent out a special appeal to party members to get busy and roll in the dollars and dimes, or pennies for that matter.

While it was thought that the two Socialists in the New York Legislature had locked the passage of the Slater bill to enforce universal military training, the measure was later jammed thru and is now a law. All boys between the age of 16 and 19—200,000 in number—must now prepare for war. New York State also has a conscription law and Governor Whitman threatens to enforce it immediately.

How To Become Naturalized.

THE National Office publishes the best booklet of information on Naturalization. You need it to instruct that friend or relation who is about to undergo the examination. Price only 10 cents.—Socialist Party, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago.

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AMERICAN SOCIALIST

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of the United States.

J. L. ENGBAHL, Editor.

Entered as second-class matter, July 21, 1914, at the post-office at Chicago, Ill., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Published every Saturday by the Socialist Party National Office, 803 West Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

BUNDLE RATES.—Bundle Rates One Year to one address: 4 copies, \$1.50; 8 copies, \$3.00; 10 copies, \$3.50; 25 copies, \$9.00; 50 copies, \$18.75; 100 copies, \$35.00. Bundle Rates of Any Issue: 1,000, \$75.00; 500, \$37.50; 200, \$15.00; 100, 75 cents.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1917.

The New York Call's sport editor, declares Hamie Oshlemann, the world's champion runner, is a Socialist and carries a red card. Hans Wagner, the Pirates' famous shortstop, is another, as are Heine Zimmerman, of the Giants, and Dick Rudolph, of the Braves. Al McCoy, the middle-weight champion pugilist, is also a Socialist, and so is Bombardier Wells, the well known English boxer, and there are nearly enough other pugs around New York who declare themselves Socialists to form a regiment. For instance, Johnny Rosser, who went to England to battle Jimmy Wilde for the world's bantam title, and his whole family are Socialists, ditto Benny Leonard, who is believed by many to be champion talent; Billy Kramer, who was also a street car striker in the recent New York struggle; Leach Cross, the fighting dentist; Joe Goodney, the bantam, and others. The sport ed. adds that Jess Willard is in sympathy with the movement and is, also, a fighter, uncompromisingly opposed to war.

In the special elections to fill the positions occupied by Karl Liebknecht in the National Parliament and the State Legislature of Prussia, Franz Mehring won the latter seat by a large majority and Emil Stahl will sit in Parliament. Stahl belongs to the majority faction and Mehring to the minority. Both men contested for both seats.

NOTICE!

Owing to lack of space this week's installment of "The Call of The Wild" had to be omitted. The story will be continued next week.

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AGENTS

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Fight On Scott Nearing Is Daily Growing Hotter

Big Business, thru its representatives in Toledo, O., is continuing its fight to oust Scott Nearing from his position as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in the municipal university there. The press is the chief weapon in this fight and all sorts of misrepresentations have been printed in an effort to discredit him. The Saturday Times printed a news article stating that Dr. A. Monroe Stowe, head of the university, attacking Nearing for his position on the war, but also an evening paper came out with a denial from Dr. Stowe, the Times lied consistently the following Monday in an editorial attack headed "Why Nearing Must Go", again quoting the Stowe "attack".

Labor unions, radical societies, and the workers generally have been circulating petitions urging his retention at the university. Over 5,000 signatures have already been collected and more are coming. The Printers' Union passed a resolution that is described as decidedly warm and the Allied Council did the same. Street meetings are being held under the joint auspices of the Socialist Party, S. L. P., Rationists, and the American Union Against Militarism. Thousands of signatures are being collected and the agitation has grown to such an extent that the Trustees of the University frankly admit that they are waiting to see the drift of public opinion before they dare to act on the resignation.

As the matter stands now, Nearing's resignation is before the Trustees for their action. A probing committee of three of the trustees has been out for some time and has not yet drawn up its final report. Hearings have been held and it is noteworthy that only Nearing's friends appeared in person, others did not dare to do more than send in letters.

The Central Labor Union was represented by its President and Business Agent. Both declared that they would pledge the support of organized labor to protect the university against any attacks upon its financial support that might result from the retention of Dr. Nearing on the faculty. Threats to sabotage the sustaining funds of the college have been in some sections and labor is by no means blind to their meaning. Those who were in favor of accepting the resignation were invited to speak first. No one did. The opposition then was given the floor, and among the speakers were President Baum and Business Agent Quigley of the C. L. U., Carl V. Illig of the Young People's Socialist League, P. O. Hopkins as a father of one of the students there, H. N. Kramer on behalf of the students and others. The probing committee fixed another meeting time prior to the meeting of the board which has been again postponed on account of the absence of several of the trustees.

Nearing in the meantime is continuing with his class work. The extension classes that he teaches will soon end their terms and he is expected to employ this time in giving the plumes more of the medicine that they now so bitterly resent. All efforts to have him withdraw the resignation and thus rescue the Board of Trustees

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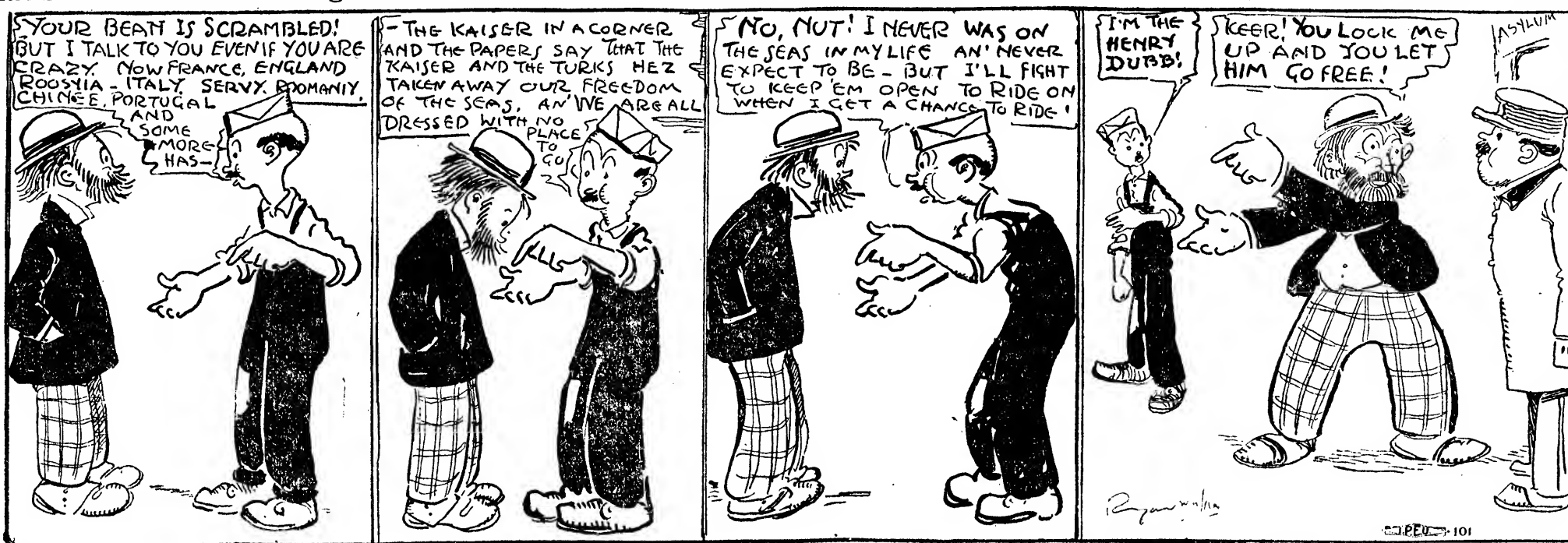
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What's The Use Of Talking About Freedom Of The Seas To A Lunatic



By RYAN WALKER

Scholarship Contest News

This week sees a few new changes in our listing, but Comrade Freidman is still on top and is going further and further toward the winning line. This week he shows another gain of 76 points. People often ask, "How does he do it?" It is really very simple—he works on the job. And he has others to help him. That's the whole secret. There are now two people in the race from his state and it looks as though both will be winners. State Secretary Wm. H. Henry is helping them along because he knows that his movement can make use of some more well-grounded Socialists. You, Comrade Contestant, who have not yet done anything, it's time for you to get busy. There is still time to win out, if you will but hustle yourself and get your friends and comrades on the job. A scholarship in the Rand School is surely a while prize, and the not too easily won, it is sure to repay all work that is spent upon its winning.

Name	Address	Points
M. K. Freidman, Kokomo, Ind.	309
B. J. S., Gary, Ind.	183
M. Maginsky, New York City	138
R. H. Lane, Aurora, N. C.	101
Conrad L. Freiberg, Chicago, Ill.	98
Mae Garber, Greensburg, Pa.	54
L. Van den Bergh, Minneapolis, Minn.	36
John C. Knowlton, Mason City, Ia.	32
P. E. Tomlinson, Winona, Minn.	24
Miss E. W., Holyoke, Mass.	20
J. N. Carter, Omaha, Nebr.	7
Mrs. C. Schase, Youngstown, Ohio	4
Ida Binstock, Hartford, Conn.	2
Robert H. Wilson, Brattleboro, Vt.	—
Wm. Heino, Wilkeson, Wash.	—
Harold F. D. A. Jackson, Los Angeles, Cal.	—
Ernest Leo, Seattle, Wash.	—
M. L. Lehman, N. Glendale, Cal.	—
Maurice Levine, St. Paul, Minn.	—
Mrs. H. J. Grigsby, Great Falls, Mont.	—
Abraham H. Fein, Bronx, N. Y.	—
City, N. Y.	—
Tony Morrello, Youngstown, O.	—
I. V. Yinget, Kenosha, Wis.	—
Max Cenis, Irwin, Pa.	—

Sweden has taken control of nearly all cereals in the country and issued rules calculated to husband the country's resources.

Nearing Case Is Still Stirring All Toledo

"No longer is Toledo's morning greeting, 'What do you think about the weather?', but 'What about Nearing?' As the town wag put it, we are 'Nearing' a crisis in the city, and that much admired and well hated man Nearing has brought it about."

The above is the opening paragraph of one of the letters to the Toledo "Blade" and other papers in the city, means all of which are printed. The city is more wrought up over its live-wire professor of Arts and Sciences than it is over the special session of Congress. And the papers are squirming. They are all for preparedness and other forms of militarizing this country, yet they cannot afford to ride roughshod over a man that has so many friends in the community. The people have had a chance to see him at his post in the college, the young students have had a chance to judge him for what he really is, and not for what rabid jingo editors have to say about him. And his students are behind him to a man.

On the other hands, however, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Toledo Post of the G. A. R., and a few other eminently patriotic and emergency right gentlemen are not after his scalp. They demand that his resignation be accepted. Organized Labor however, and all the progressive elements of the city insist that to allow him to be fired would be a repudiation of the principles of free speech and a proclamation to the world that only such men as would keep their tongues in their checks were welcome on the faculty of the University of Toledo.

The papers are trying their best to get around this contention. They insist that free speech is not involved, they do not care about what Nearing thinks or says, but he makes trouble and discord for the university and the peaceful city and should therefore be sent packing. But the workers are minded otherwise and so there is the Board of Trustees between the devil of jingo patriotism and the deep blue sea of labor's disfavor.

STATEMENT
Of The Ownership, Management, Circulation, Etc., Required By The Act Of Congress Of August 24, 1912.
Of The American Socialist, published weekly at Chicago, Ill., for April 1917.
State of Illinois. County of Cook.
Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Adolph Germer, who being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of The American Socialist, a newspaper published weekly at Chicago, Ill., for April 1917. He is the publisher, editor, manager and business manager of the said newspaper, and the names and addresses of the owners, proprietors, and business managers are: National Executive Committee: Victor L. Berger, Brisbane Hall, Milwaukee, Wis.; Morris Hillquit, 30 Church St., New York, N. Y.; Anna A. Maley, 613 Washington St., S. E., Minneapolis, Minn.; John Spargo, Old Bennington, Vt.; John M. Work, 1217 Rosedale Ave., Chicago, Ill.

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3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

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ADOLPH GERMER.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 31st day of March 1917.

JOHN M. FEIGH, Notary Public.

(My commission expires February 4th, 1920.)

CREDITS MEN.
Miss Jeannette Rankin, the new congress-woman from Montana, was asked if the reason she was elected was because Western women were more progressive than Eastern women. She quickly responded "No, it is because Western men are more progressive than Eastern men. Women, east and west are much the same, but western men afford women more opportunity to express themselves."

Its Meaning

(Lines Inspired by a Military Bugle.)

A bugle blast sounds in my ears;
In ringing tones the summons comes,
All fraught, it seems, with blood and tears
And orphan's cries and widows' groans.

It means to me a nation deep
Down in the depths of hate untold,
Inspired by greed without a peep
At glories that peace can enfold.

It means to me a nation gone
Far back to times when man was beast,
When loot and lust spurred effort on
And all things good were all things least.

It means to me, I must confess,
A shameful life and life of strength;
But wait! Rejoice! Its power grows less;
Its life is sure, but short in length.

For peace will come and men no more
Will kill the kind from other lands;
The sword will rust, the cannon's roar
Cease to be heard when all join hands.

By Edmund R. Brumbaugh.

Government Of Finland Is Headed By Socialist

By HENRY ASKEEL.

If any nationality has reason to be glad about the downfall of Russia, it is the Finnish people certainly. I am sure every Finlander, excluding those who were benefited by the old regime, will feel a deep gratitude towards those who assisted the revolution.

According to the latest news dispatches from Helsinki, Finland also, it now has a new senate, which is Finland's supreme executive body. This was agreed on after prolonged negotiations by all political parties. The new senate consists of twelve members and is chosen according to party divisions in parliament. Six of these twelve are Socialists, and the head of the government is a Socialist, Comrade M. Tokoi, some years past a miner in the United States and member of the Western Federation of Miners.

The Social-Democratic party is the largest party in Finland at present. It now has a majority on the Diet and control of the senate. Other parties represented in the new government are: Old Finnish party, young Finnish party and Swedish Popular party. This composition government has already organized a new judicial department, excluding the former reactionary officials, and appointing instead the country's best jurists in their place. It will take in consideration that the new government in Russia has given constitutional autonomy to Finland, the new Finnish government will have a free hand to work. And they will work in the right direction, we can be sure of that.

For more than a hundred years Finland has been a part of the Russian Empire; a Grand Duchy, so-called, and in the past 20 years the Russification of Finland has proceeded relentlessly. And yet, in spite of this aggression and especially during the most ruthless oppression Finland has taken her place as one of the most progressive nations in the whole world.

The world already knows that in Finland every man and woman has a voice; that they have proportional representation; women representation in the Diet and many other radical measures. All these they got by fighting for them. They got them when conditions were most oppressive. What will they do now, when they have constitutional liberty?

During the Russian oppression, the working class in Finland had to fight against two enemies: the Finnish capitalist class and the Russian autocracy. Now, when the latter is a thing of the past, they can concentrate their efforts more strongly against the capitalist class.

This revolution did not overthrow capitalism in Finland. No; capitalism is still there. But constitutional autonomy will give the working class freedom of speech and assembly and to the nation as a whole wider self-government. There is a world of difference, living in the constitutional state and in the autocratic state.

This newly gained freedom cost the blood, lives and liberties of hundreds and thousands of revolutionists in Russia and in Finland. Those daring souls began the agitation among the peasants and the working people, which resulted in the nation-wide revolutionary wave that swept the country like a prairie fire. Yorkers in these two countries worked hand in hand and dreamed of better days. Years ago the Socialists in Finland realized that the freedom of their country can only be gained by assisting the revolutionists in Russia to overthrow the tyrannical government. Now we see that they were correct.

Yes, indeed, we have a reason to be glad.

FOR "MUNY" OWNERSHIP.

The platform of the Socialist Party of St. Louis advocates the establishment of municipal warehouses and cold storage plants to reduce the high cost of living, a municipal electric plant to serve the entire city, a municipal gas plant, municipal ownership of the street railways municipal loan offices and a municipal drug store.

Some of the Australian labor papers are bemoaning the split in the Labor party over the conscription issue. But without exception they are against conscription, and declare that while the division hurts at present it will have proven a good thing in the long run.

CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIALISM

The American Baptist Publication Society, with headquarters in Philadelphia, has issued a pamphlet written by Prof. J. E. Franklin, bearing the title, "The Relation of Christianity and Socialism," that is a magazine of facts, and the document will doubtless create a great deal of interest in the Baptist Church and probably other denominations. Dr. Franklin discusses Socialism from the historical, economic, social and religious point of view in an unprejudiced manner. He writes, among other things:

What shall we say of the Sermon on the Mount, in which Jesus points out wherein the accepted ethics, social as well as individual, differ from his own ideals? What is the meaning of the parable of Dives and Lazarus? Is it not the condemnation of those who sit at ease amid their abundance, indifferent to the sufferings of the poor, denying social responsibility, denying human brotherhood? Dives was as charitable as the average Christian; he permitted Lazarus to share with the dogs his superfluous abundance.

"Now what is the conclusion of the whole matter? If the indictment drawn by socialism against our present industrial organization is measurably true; if our competitive system is the fruitful source of poverty, misery, and sin; if the co-operative commonwealth is an ideal that can be approximately attained and brings with it a state of society in which men can actually live the true Christian life; then the Christian Church by all its ideals and traditions, should be squarely committed to this movement.

"Socialism is not merely a question of bread and butter. It involves all the relation of man to man, repressing selfishness, exalting justice, and promoting brotherly kindness. It is applied Christianity."

This is an aitch of a time for Harper's Weekly to come along with this kind of stuff. Why didn't that magazine print something like it before the November election? Then it might have had its wish gratified. Listen: "Now that neither the Republican nor the Democrats have a working majority in the next House, it is pity that Meyer London is the only Socialist returned to Congress. Had Berger and Taylor of Milwaukee, Debs from New York and Hillquit from New York City been elected with him the country would have enjoyed the somewhat novel experience of having a party with a program of fundamental reconstruction holding the balance of power in the legislative halls of the nation. The full program of socialism no one need expect to see inaugurated in this generation—the great war has given it such an impetus as no one thought possible two years ago. But the party's unflinching support of international peace, of democracy in all forms, and the rights of women and children, and generally of all who are oppressed, is beyond admiration. Congress, the country and the world need more, not less, socialism."

William Hamilton has been chosen as President of the Legislative Council in Queensland, Australia. This action by the Labor party is a blow that almost killed father capitalism. Bill Hamilton—as everybody calls him—is a most objectionable person. He is one of the pioneers in the trade union movement and helped form the Labor party years ago. He was a miner, sheep shearer and tramp at various times. As a strike leader he created so much trouble on one occasion that the capitalist State government that controlled Queensland put a price on his head and he had to go into hiding in the bush as an outlaw. Now to lord it over the Legislative Council is disgraceful, indeed. Alfred Jones, another miner, has been appointed State Minister of Mines, a Cabinet position. They do things queerly in Australia, where they have the gall to try to run their affairs without the aid or consent of capitalists and their lawyers and politicians.

According to the American-Scandinavian Review, the recent municipal elections in Norway show a greater gain for Socialism than originally reported. In Christiania the Socialist party captured 45 seats in the City Council against 35 Conservatives, 5 Radicals and 2 Liberals. The Conservatives have held their ground, while the two intermediate parties, representing to a great extent Socialist principles, have apparently gone over to the Socialist party organization, with the result that Christiania for the next three years will have a Socialist city government. Large gains were also made in smaller places.

It has come to be the fashion in Australia for the big capitalist dailies to charge, whenever the workers in any industry believe they should have increased wages, that they are incited to make demands by the "red raggies," and the usual appeal to "patriotic considerations" are made to the dissatisfied toilers, who are urged to turn down the agitators and save the country from the fomenters of trouble in the interest of the Teutonic enemy. But the scheme doesn't pan out right. The plute organs recently played particularly strong upon the Sydney dock workers, calling upon them to remember their flag and country and to vote against demanding more wages and going on strike. By an overwhelming majority the dockers voted to strike if more wages were not forthcoming. Other organizations are taking the same course.

Now that the revolution has encompassed the overthrow of the imperialists, the Socialists of Russia, who played a prominent part in that drama, are organizing thruout the country for the purpose of defending the liberties that have been gained against invasion by the new plutocracy that is rising out of the ruins of the autocracy, and which will surely be jeopardized now and in the future. The more radical elements in the Socialist movement are also calling on the soldiers to cease fighting and attempt to fraternize with the Teutons and challenge them to revolt against the Junker class. Political lines are now becoming more sharply drawn in Russia, since the common enemy has been dethroned, and exciting times are looked for in the near future.

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